President: Order, order. I see the point of the question and I think that the ground must be cleared. There are certain appointments which Government make or are compelled to make on political grounds. Certain appointments are made in favour of the sons or sons-in-law or dependants of influential or persuasive members of the Legislature or public men who have helped Government during difficult times. Sometimes those requests are complied with, though more often they are not. Officers of Government, retired and in active service, are anxious that their dependants should be provided for. Sometimes it is expedient to comply with their wishes. But very often it is not. Every Government in the world has to exercise certain patronage on political and other analogous grounds. The position of Government is that for political purposes certain appointments have to be made, not on account of efficiency but in the realisation that the persons concerned will have no chance but for the advocacy of or relationship to certain individuals. All these appointments—let me be perfectly frank about this matter—all these appointments are made in the hope and in the expectation that the persons who are appointed would justify their choice. No Government in the world can exist without a certain number of appointments being made for political purposes. To put the matter bluntly, a certain number of appointments are made to encourage people who have got influence and who exercise the influence in aid of Government. If honourable members want to know all the details, the lists will be placed on the table of this House, but the results may be surprising and unlooked for. In consequence of difficulties that arose on account of the non-co-operation and abstention movements, it was necessary for Government to regiment a certain amount of help. There was a large group of people who were anxious not to help but to hinder Government. Certain appointments were made and certain patronage was extended which could not be justified on abstract grounds but solely justifiable as a method of encouragement of loyal support. I suppose that many of the appointments are unjustifiable from that abstract point of view but are justifiable only from the general or political point of view. It is perfectly open to Government to lay on the table of the House a list of such appointments and the officers of Government will be directed to do so if such a course is really desired.

Compound wall of the New Public Offices near the Museum.

4. * **Mr. James Fletcher**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the portion of the compound just to the south of the new Public Offices is left as a waste land;

(*b*) whether the said waste land is used as a public latrine by the people living around the place; and

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(c) whether there is provision for the construction of a compound wall on the southern boundary of the new Public Offices compound.

Mr. I. C. Chacko (*Executive Engineer in charge of the duties of the Chief Engineer*): (a) Yes.

(b) The space is likely to be misused by the surrounding people.

(c) An estimate for the compound wall has yet to be prepared after the new road along the rear side of the Public Offices is opened.

Mr. James Fletcher: Will the member be pleased to state whether at least a temporary compound wall could not be constructed for the time being?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: The matter will be considered.

Alleppey-Shertala Canal.

5. * **Mr. T. Krishna Pillai** (*Kalkulam and Vilavankod cum Neyyattinkara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the aggregate amount expended by Government for the Alleppey-Shertala canal;

(b) the length that remains to be converted into a canal out of the area acquired;

(c) how many miles of this canal have been constructed;

(d) whether any portion has now been silted up; and

(e) what is the estimated cost for the completion of the canal?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: (a) Rs. 6,48,846.

(b) 7 miles and 4517 ft.

(c) 3 miles and 763 ft. at the Alleppey end and 2 miles and 2320 ft. at the Shertala end or 5 miles and 3083 ft. in all.

(d) Not to an appreciable extent.

(e) Rs. 4,24,500.

The A. V. M. Canal.

6. * **Mr. T. Krishna Pillai**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the aggregate amount expended by Government for the A. V. M. canal;

(b) the length of the completed portion;

(c) whether the completed portion is navigable; and

(d) what is the estimated cost for the completion of the canal?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: (a) The information is not available at this distance of time.

(b) 41¾ miles.

(c) No. Only 8 miles.

(d) Rs. 5,51,600.

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